

Selected BLS Economic Indicators



Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton

Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment, price, and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)**.

Consumer Price Index (1982-84) = 100	April 2006	April 2007	Percent change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	201.5	206.686	2.6
Northeast	214.7	219.501	2.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	127.3	129.563	1.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	197.2	202.130	2.5
Northeast	211.0	215.802	2.3
Northeast (size class B/C)*	127.6	129.856	1.8
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)	April 2006	April 2007	Percent change
Finished goods	160.7	165.8	3.2
All commodities	164.3	171.2	4.2
Industrial commodities	168.8	173.7	2.9

*Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100)

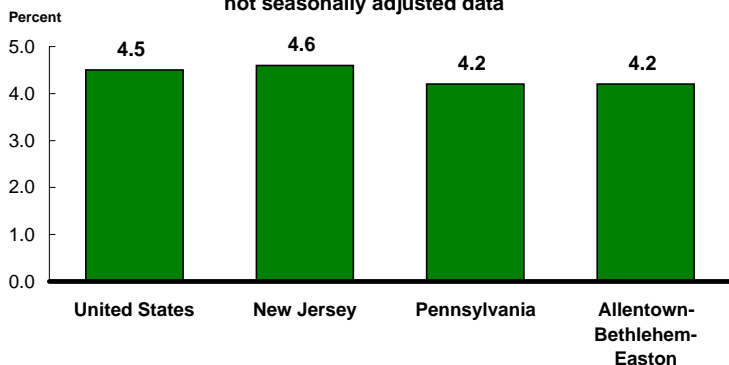
Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2006	March 2007	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,255.0	6,913.0	-342.0	-4.7
New Jersey	220.2	206.3	-13.9	-6.3
Pennsylvania	317.1	264.1	-53.0	-16.7
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	20.7	17.6	-3.1	-15.0

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Unemployment rates, March 2007 not seasonally adjusted data

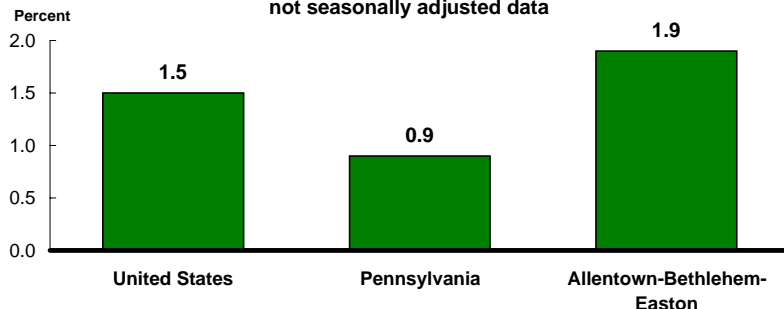


Nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2006	March 2007	Net change	Percent change
United States	134,868.0	136,835.0	1,967.0	1.5
New Jersey	4,029.8	4,047.2	17.4	0.4
Pennsylvania	5,697.8	5,751.3	53.5	0.9
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	339.3	345.6	6.3	1.9

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

Percent change in nonfarm employment, March 2006-March 2007 not seasonally adjusted data



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The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania, and Warren County in New Jersey.